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**CC:**  
**Subject:** Office of Public Affairs Salient Issues for Week Ending December 9, 2011

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Week Ending December 9, 2011

**Freedom of Information Act Report** – During November, 74 FOIA requests were received. The majority were from environmental consulting companies with requests for environmental assessment information regarding specific properties. The balance were requests for Superfund site information such as RODS, remedial studies, and consent decrees, with no particular site given preference. (Richard Van Holt, 814-5553)

**Drinking Water Sparks Renewed Concern in Dimock** - On November 30, Cabot Chemical Oil and Gas Company stopped providing alternative water to Dimock, Pa. residents. The company had been providing water to residents who claimed that their wells had been adversely impacted by the company's gas drilling activities in the area, under a PADEP order requiring the company to do so until November 30.

At the request of residents, EPA visited Dimock area homes on November 10 and reviewed well sampling data for wells impacted by the Cabot's drilling activities. EPA made a preliminary review of the data provided by PADEP and the residents and, while it did not indicate an immediate health threat to well water users, EPA assured the residents that we will continue to review the latest information. EPA has since received an additional 300 pages of well sampling data from the residents that we are reviewing. EPA has also requested that CDC conduct a health consult to evaluate potential human health risks. The issue has received extensive media coverage over the last two weeks. (David Sternberg, 814-5548)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Dec. 6**      **Advisory:** EPA Grant to SEPTA Will Help Clean Air (Smith)

**Dec. 8** SEPTA Receives \$1.2 Million EPA Grant to Improve Air Quality (Smith)